

News Desk

Edited: Derek Johnson



ELTON CALLS IT OFF

ELTON JOHN has cancelled his British concert tour, which was due to open on April 28 and take in a total of 17 venues, climaxing at Wembley Empire Pool on May 27. Official explanation is that he and his entourage are physically exhausted as the result of recent world-wide commitments.

Elton's manager, Vic Lewis, said this week that the cancelled dates would be re-scheduled at the earliest possible opportunity.

Explaining the reasons behind the tour cancellation, Lewis added: "A strenuous three-month recording and touring schedule in America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand has resulted in the group and its management suffering severe strain and exhaustion, to the ex-

tent that further touring and travelling would be impossible at the present time. Elton John has regretfully no alternative but to postpone all the group's current engagements."

Box-offices were not due to open for the tour until April 1, so no tickets had actually been sold. However, some mail order applications have been received and — in these cases — cheques and postal orders will be returned.

It is not yet clear how this decision will affect Elton's plans to stage a special event at Watford football stadium, to raise money for the local soccer club of which he is a director. As previously revealed by NME, he was hoping to present the concert during the spring — May 19 was the latest date under consideration — and was negotiating with several big-name acts to join him. This project may still go ahead.